

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES WERE LOCATED BY MEMBER WAYNE K. HOMREN AND SUBMITTED AS PHOTOCOPIES OF MICROFILMED NEWSPAPER FILES. SINCE THE PHOTOCOPIES WERE DIFFICULT TO READ, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF RETYPING THEM AND APOLOGIZE FOR CAPITALIZATION, ERRORS AND ANY OTHER WRONG DOING BUT YOU GETS WHAT YOU PAY FOR

PITTSBURGH GAZETTE 7/22/1862
THE POSTAGE STAMP CURRENCY

A LETTER FROM WASHINGTON SAYS:
THE LAW PROHIBITING THE ISSUE OF SHINPLASTERS--WHICH WAS SIGNED A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE LAST ADJOURNEMENT--WAS JUST IN TIME TO PREVENT A LARGE NUMBER OF CORPORATIONS FROM GOING LARGELY INTO THE BUSINESS. THE ACTION IN REFERENCE TO STAMPS MEETS WITH MANY RESERVATIONS IN THIS VICINITY. THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT WILL ISSUE A LARGE AMOUNT OF STAMPS FOR CIRCULATION. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL BE READY BY THE FIRST OF AUGUST AT ALL THE LEADING POST-OFFICES, WHERE, FOR TREASURY NOTES ONE CAN OBTAIN A SUPPLY OF THREE, FIVE, TEN, TWELVE, TWENTY-FOUR, THIRTY, FORTY-EIGHT, AND NINETY CENT STAMPS. THE SMALL DENOMINATIONS ARE MOST NEEDED. WITH FIVE AND TENS IT WILL BE EASY TO MAKE CHANGES IN ALL ORDINARY TRANSACTIONS. WITH STAMPS AND PENNIES IT IS THE EXPECTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE PEOPLE WILL NOT SUFFER MUCH INCONVENIENCE. THE COINAGE OF CENTS WILL BE PUSHED TO THE EXTENT OF THE ABILITY OF THE MINT, AND AS THEY ARE EXCHANGED AT PAR FOR TREASURY NOTES THERE MUST SOON BE ABUNDANT IN THE GENERAL CIRCULATION.

PITTSBURGH POST 12/9/1862
POSTAL CURRENCY

THE SCARCITY OF THIS SUBSTITUTE FOR SMALL CHANGE IS MUCH COMPLAINED OF AND IT IS ALLEGED THAT IT IS OPENLY SOLD, BOTH HERE AND IN THE EAST, AT A PREMIUM OF SIX TO TEN PERCENT, CONTRARY TO LAW--WHICH ACCOUNTS IN A MEASURE, FOR ITS SCARCITY. COLLECTOR BATCHELOR IS MAKING A VIGOROUS EFFORT TO SECURE AN ADDITIONAL SUPPLY FOR THIS CITY, BUT OWING TO THE LARGE SUMS REQUIRED BY PAYMASTERS AND RAILROAD COMPANIES, HAS NO PRESENT PROSPECT OF OBTAINING ANY.

PITTSBURGH POST 12/12/1862
LOOK OUT FOR BOGUS POSTAGE CURRENCY

IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE COUNTERFEIT FIFTY CENT NOTES OF THE NEW POSTAGE CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION. THEY ARE SAID TO BE WELL EXECUTED, AND SHOULD BE GUARDED AGAINST. THE FOLLOWING EASILY NOTED MARKS WILL ENABLE HOLDERS TO DETECT THEM:

1. THE PAPER IS THINNER THAN THE GENUINE. 2. THE FIVE FACES OF WASHINGTON VARY CONSIDERABLY FROM EACH OTHER IN THE COUNTERFEIT--SO MUCH THAT FROM TWO OR THREE OF THEM, IF STANDING ALONE WOULD HARDLY BE TAKEN TO BE PORTRAITS OF WASHINGTON--WHILE ON THE GENUINE THEY CLOSELY RESEMBLE EACH OTHER. 3. THE LINKED LETTERS "U.S." UNDER THE MIDDLE FACE OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTERFEIT DO NOT SHOW THE LOWER END OF THE "S." INSIDE OF THE LEG OF THE "U." WHILE IN THE GENUINE THEY DO. THIS MARK IS EASILY SEEN. 4. THE BORDER ROUND THE LETTERING AND "50" ON THE BACK OF THE COUNTERFEIT IS DARK, AND THE LINES ARE CROWDED, WHILE IN THE GENUINE THE BORDER IS OPEN, WITH A LINE OF LIGHT DOTS RUNNING THROUGH THE MIDDLE ALL THE WAY ROUND. IN THE COUNTERFEIT THIS MIDDLE LINE IS ALMOST INVISIBLE, WHILE IN THE GENUINE IT IS SO DISTINCT AS TO CATCH THE EYE AT ONCE.

PITTSBURGH POST 12/12/1862
DISTRIBUTION OF POSTAGE CURRENCY

CAPT. BATCHELOR, SURVEYOR OF THE PORT, HAS RECEIVED ANOTHER SUPPLY OF POSTAGE CURRENCY FOR DISTRIBUTION. IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE DISSATISFACTION AT THE LAST DISTRIBUTION HE HAS DETERMINED TO PAY IT OUT IN SUMS OF \$15, FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDS AT TWO O'CLOCK THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON. THAT THERE MAY BE SOME ORDER MAINTAINED IN THIS DISTRIBUTION, CAPT. B. REQUESTS THAT PERSON WISHING THIS CHANGE WILL FORM IN LINE, ENTER THE CUSTOM HOUSE YARD AT THE GATE ON SMITHFIELD STREET, RECEIVE THE CHANGE AT THE WINDOW AND PASS OUT AT THE FIFTH STREET GATE. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISTURBANCE, THE WINDOW WILL BE CLOSED AND EXCHANGE STOPPED. NO DISTRIBUTION OF ANY CURRENCY WILL BE MADE INSIDE THE OFFICE, NOR AT ANY TIME OTHER THAN THAT SPECIFIED BY NOTICE IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

PITTSBURGH POST 12/17/1862
THE RUSH FOR POSTAGE CURRENCY

TEN O'CLOCK YESTERDAY MORNING WAS THE HOUR APPOINTED BY CAPT. C. W. BATCHELOR, SURVEYOR OF THE PORT, FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF POSTAGE CURRENCY IN SUMS OF \$15. BUT BY NINE O'CLOCK THE CROWD BEGAN TO ASSEMBLE AT THE SMITHFIELD STREET SIDE OF THE CUSTOM HOUSE, EACH ANXIOUS TO SECURE AN EARLY SUPPLY. GREAT WAS THE PUSHING, PULLING AND JOSTLING FOR THE CHOICE OF PLACES, AND FORTUNATE INDEED WAS HE WHO GAINED A FOOTHOLD NEAR THE WINDOW WHERE THE CURRENCY WAS TO BE PAID OUT. HARD WORDS FROM NETTLED CONTESTANTS FOR PREFERENCE WERE NOT UNFREQUENT AND TO PRESERVE ORDER IT WAS FOUND NECESSARY TO SEND TO THE PROVOST MARSHAL FOR A GUARD OF SOLDIERS, WHO WERE STATIONED IN THE YARD TO KEEP BACK THE CROWD. WHEN THE WINDOW WAS OPENED AND THE PAYING OUT BEGAN THE CONFUSION WAS GREATER, AS INSTEAD OF THOSE SUPPLIED BY THE FIFTH STREET GATES AFFORDING ANY RELIEF, THE CROWD ON SMITHFIELD STREET BECAME MORE AND MORE IMPATIENT AND PRESSED IN A DENSE MASS TOWARDS THE WINDOW, ALMOST BEARING DOWN THE GUARD. SEVERAL DISTURBANCES OCCURRED, BUT NOT OF A VERY SERIOUS NATURE, AND AFTER ONE OF THESE, CAPT. BATCHELOR, AS HE HAD ANNOUNCED, ORDERED THE WINDOW TO BE CLOSED AND SO THE PAYING OUT OF THE "SHADSKINS" CEASED FOR THAT DAY. IT SEEMS SINGULAR THAT NO PLAN CAN BE HIT UPON TO DISTRIBUTE THE CURRENCY THAT WILL CAUSE IT TO BE FAIRLY DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE CITY AND AMONG THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, WITHOUT THE DISSATISFACTION AND GROUSING WHICH HAS ATTENDED EVERY EFFORT UP TO THIS TIME. AS NOW MANAGED THE ANXIETY OF EVERYONE TO GET HIS SHARE SEEMS ONLY TO DEFEAT THE OBJECT BY CREATING AN EXCITEMENT WHICH DEBARS ALL FROM GETTING ANY.
